

PITTSFIELD.

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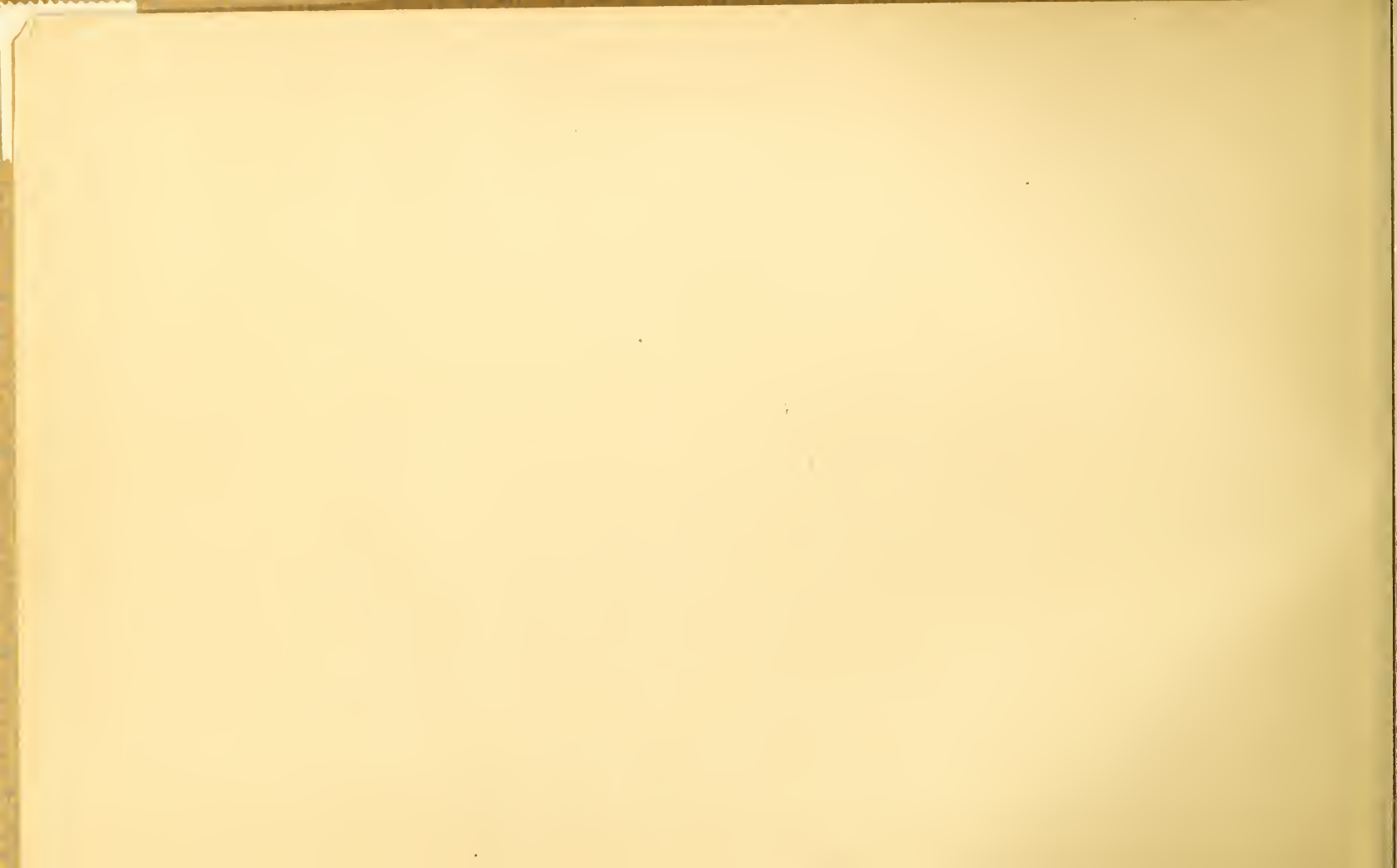
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PITTSFIELD. *Mass.*

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ITTSFIELD, the county seat of Berkshire, was incorporated as a town April 26th, 1761. And on January 1st, 1891, laid aside the singular privilege of being the largest town in the United States, and assumed the dignity of a city.

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It lies in the north west corner of the Old Commonwealth and has long been noted for the natural beauty of its location, resting as it does on a ground formation, resembling an inverted bowl, with the famous Berkshire Hills almost entirely encircling it. Its handsome residences and well kept lawns, together with the magnificent maple trees and stately elms are at once its pride and delight. The drives are famous for their beauty. The hotel accommodations are of the very best, the American House and the Burbank Hotel being open all the year, give particular attention to commercial men, and the Maplewood, while always glad to entertain whoever comes, is a summer hotel, and its patrons are mostly people who settle down for extended visits. Under the management of its proprietor, Mr. A. W. Plumb, it has become widely known as one of the best hotels in the country.

On the corner of North and West streets stands the fine Nova Scotia sand stone building of the Berkshire Life Insurance Company, erected in 1867 on the sight of the old Berkshire Hotel, for many years a famous hostelry. The company was incorporated in 1851, with the Hon. G. N. Briggs as its first president. It occupies for its offices part of the second and third floors, the remainder of the building being used by three National Banks, the Savings Bank, telegraph office and the general post office. The company has always enjoyed the confidence of the people of Western Massachusetts, and have had the ablest business men as its officers and directors; they have aimed at justice to policy holders rather than the accumulation of large assets, and the company have never had a judgment against it on account of policy holders.

On the opposite corner of North Street are the offices of the Berkshire Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which is one of the oldest incorporated institutions in the county, and is among the oldest fire insurance companies in the state. It was established in 1835, after having first secured the \$50,000.00 advance insurance required by its charter, with Nathan Willis, Edward A. Newton and Ezekiel R. Colt as associate incorporators, and chose its first board of seven directors on the 28th of May. On the 30th the directors elected Nathan Willis, president, and Parker L. Hall, secretary. This company confines its business to the State of Massachusetts, and in addition to returning large dividends to policy holders, has accumulated a cash fund of \$107,000. The present officers are J. L. Peck, president, and J. M. Stevenson, secretary and treasurer.

At the north end of the town stands the House of Mercy, Pittsfield's hospital, and immediately adjoining it is the Henry W. Bishop 3d, Memorial Training School for Nurses, erected by Henry W. Bishop in memory of his son Henry W. Bishop 3d, who died in 1885, while attending Williams College. Mr. Bishop fully furnished and equipped the building and handed it over to the House of Mercy to be managed in connection with that institution. Its officers are H. W. Bishop, president; Richard T. Auchmuty, vice-president; E. T. Slocum, clerk; Ralph B. Bardwell, treasurer.

On South Street, a little south of the park is the Berkshire County Home for Aged Women, erected by Zenas and William Murray Crane, as the tablet on its walls declared in compliance with the wishes and to the memory of their father, Zenas Marshall Crane. The plans for this building and also for the Bishop Memorial Training School and the Dalton Church were made by Architect H. N. Wilson.

Towards the lower end of East Street is the residence of William R. Plunkett. This house was the summer home of the father-in-law of the poet Longfellow, who passed many pleasant hours here, and here stood the old clock on the stairs, immortalized by Longfellow. There is another clock on the stairs now, identical in size and shape with the old one, but the original was removed some time ago to Cambridge.

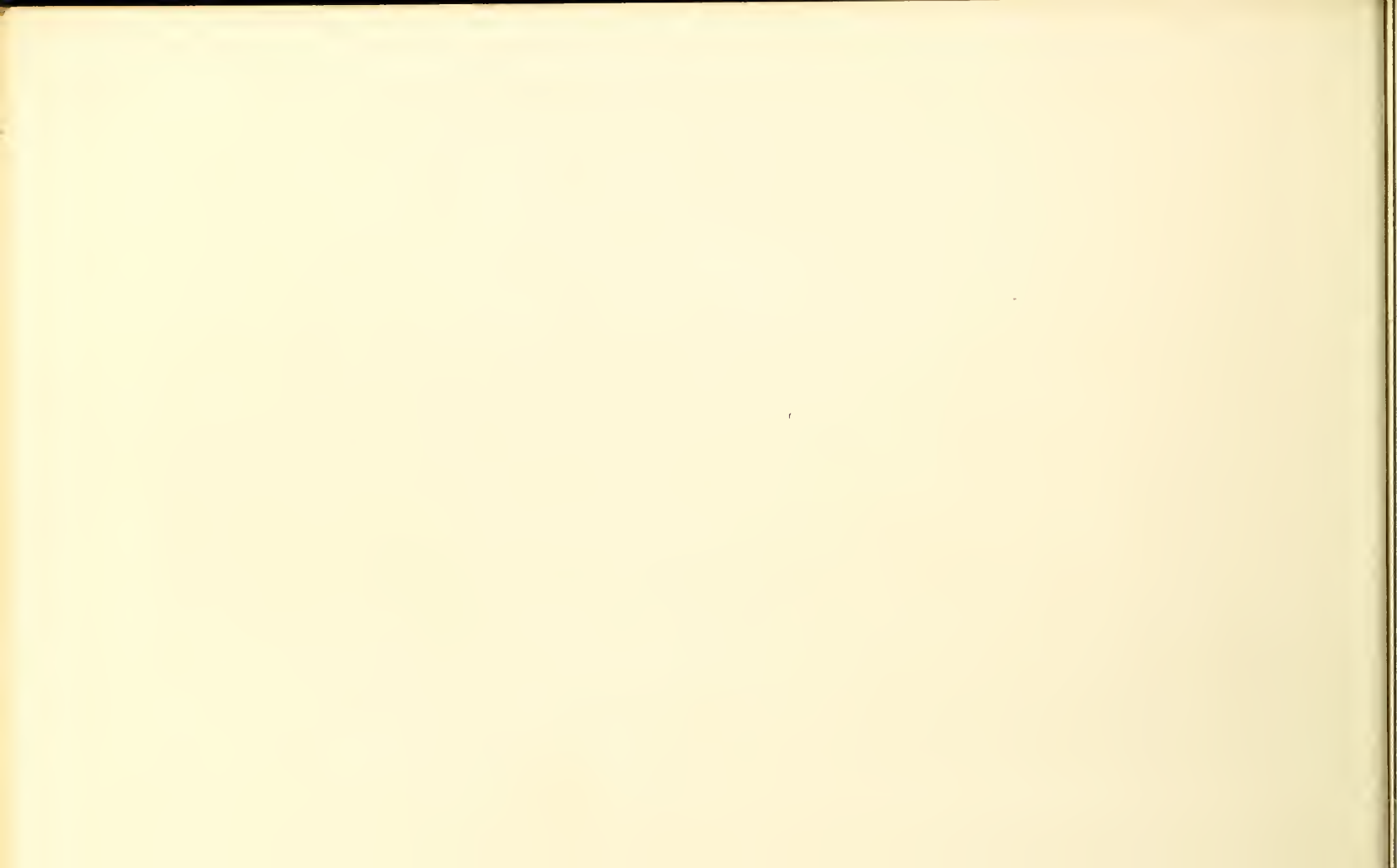


PITTSFIELD FROM SOUTH MOUNTAIN.





NORTH STREET—EAST SIDE.





NORTH STREET—WEST SIDE.





EAST STREET.





SOUTH STREET.





E. HOUSATONIC ST.

EAST HOUSATONIC STREET.





BARTLETT AVENUE.





PARK AND MONUMENT.





BERKSHIRE LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING.



BALANCE ROCK.





SPLIT ROCK.





PONTOOSUC LAKE.





ONOTA LAKE.



AMERICAN HOUSE.





THE MAPLEWOOD BUILDINGS.



THE MAPLEWOOD GROUNDS.





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THE BURBANK HOTEL.





HOUSE OF MERCY.



HENRY W. BISHOP 3d, MEMORIAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.





BERKSHIRE COUNTY HOME FOR AGED WOMEN.





COURT HOUSE AND ATHENÆUM.



CEMETERY GATE.



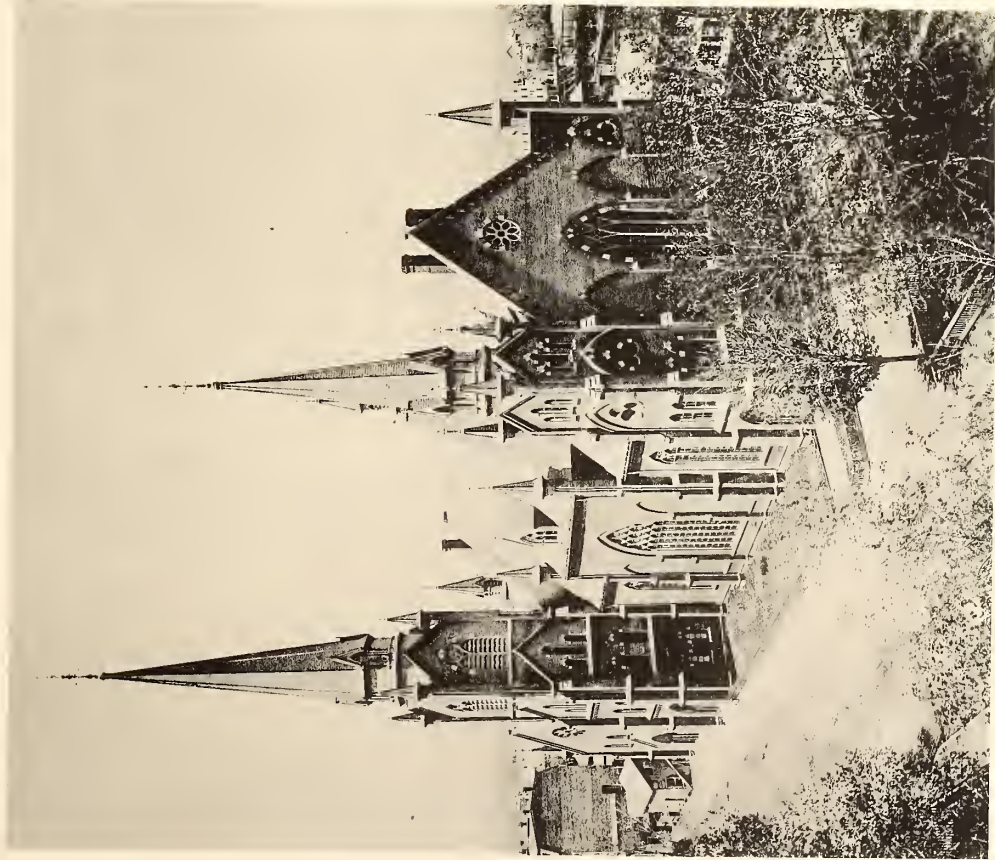


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ST. JOSEPH'S R. C. CHURCH.





Miss SALISBURY'S SCHOOL.





RESIDENCE OF WM. R. PLUNKETT, (THE LONGFELLOW HOUSE.)





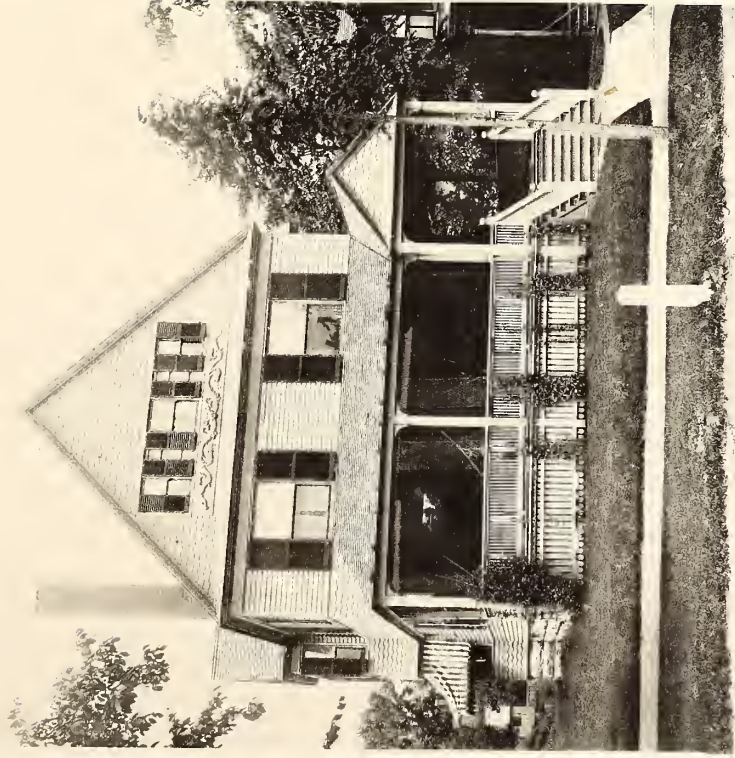
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MAIN STREET, LENOX.



MAIN STREET, STOCKBRIDGE.



EDWARD'S MONUMENT, STOCKBRIDGE.





EPISCOPAL CHURCH, STOCKBRIDGE.



